which is still awaited. Preliminary Investigation Report thereon will be finalised by DG(I&R) as soon as the required information is received from the company.

Local aid scheme in Gujarat

1442. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited from the Legal Aid Scheme in Gujarat during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the funds provided to the State under the Scheme during the year 1993-94 have fully been utilised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) On the basis of the information provided by the Gujarat State Legal Aid & Advice Board, 56,456 persons during 1993-94 and 13,392 persons in 1994 (till the end of October 1994), have benefited in the State of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) A total grant-in-aid of Rs. 1.25 lakhs was released to the State of Gujarat during 1993-94 out of which accounts for utilisation of Rs. 1.10 lakh have been rendered so far.

Amendment in Anti-Defection Law

1443. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court had taken a decision on the 12th November, 1991 to the effect that the decision of the Presiding Officer under the Anti-Defection Law could be subjected to judicial review and would not be final;

(b) whether Government have since examined the decision with a view to bring forward amendment to the Anti-Defection Law and if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the specific reasons for not completing the examination; and

(c) by when an amendment is proposed to be moved in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have examined the judgement of the Supreme Court but it has not yet decided on the formulation of the appellate authority that may hear appeals against the decisions of the Presiding Officers under the Anti-defection law.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the time by which an amendment would be moved in the Parliament.

निवृत्त न्यायाधीशों/स्वैच्छिक संगठनों से सहयोग के संबंध में नीति

1444. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 1 नवंबर, 1994 के "जनसत्ता" में "लोकहित की आज अधिक आवश्यकता है" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा निर्धन और आम लोगों द्वारा लोकहित याचिका के उद्देश्य के लिए लिखे गए पत्रों और रिपोर्टों पर त्वरित कार्यवाही को सुनिश्चित करने और लोकहित वाद को अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए कोई नीति बनाई जा रही है

(ग) क्या न्यायपालिका के अतिरिक्त सेवा-निवृत्त न्यायाधीशों और स्वैच्छिक संगठनों से सहयोग प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई नीति बनाई गई है ताकि लोकहित वाद प्रभावी बन सके ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?